

WOMONSPACE NEWS

our voice in the lesbian community



Inside

Loretta Love	2
Validation for Gay Couples	3
Ann Landers - Gay & Glad Of It	4
Myers-Briggs Type Indicator	5
Poetry	6
Book Reviews	7
k. d. Lang's "Ingenuer"	8
Symbols ... Of Lesbian Culture	9
Coming Events/Gay Pride Week	10
Newsletter Committee	11
Horoscope	12
The Last Word is Yours	15

May/June, 1992

Lovesick? Girlfriend Problems?

Womonspace Presents . . .

Loretta Love is presently completing a B.A. in Psychology and has extensive experience assisting women with their concerns.



Advice to the Lovelorn

Your questions and letters are welcome! Loretta will try to answer as many letters as possible. Please submit your mail to Loretta Love, c/o Womonspace, 9930 - 106 St. Edmonton, Alberta T5K 1C7

Dear Loretta;

I can't believe I am writing you, but I have a problem and I have no one to talk to about it. First, I am a twenty-five year old lesbian. I've been involved with a woman for about two and a half years. She is a good person and we have a lot of fun together but the problem is I know she has cheated on me at least three times since we've been together. The truth is I don't know why I am still with her. She's very special to me but she just can't seem to stop having affairs - I think she's having another one presently. I have tried to leave but I just haven't been able to go through with it because in all other areas she and I are compatible and she treats me well. Please help me, I know I have to get out of this. It's hurting me so much.

Desperate

Dear Desperate;

I understand why you signed your name in this manner. You have some significant decisions to make and I'm glad you are reaching out for help. Hopefully I can help you understand why you have stayed in this relationship for so long. But more importantly, I'm glad you are ready to move forward in your life. The reason why a person "self-entraps" herself in a negative relationship that causes pain can be complex.



However, I want to outline the main reasons for you:

1. Low self-esteem which causes a person to feel like she does not deserve being treated with respect and dignity in a relationship;
2. Fear that there is no one else "out there" for you. Thus, the person stays involved in a negative relationship thinking such compatibility will never again be attained. Generally however, comfortableness is confused here with compatibility;
3. Fear of being alone - for some people there is nothing so frightening as being completely alone especially if you think some of your mutual friends will "side" with the other person;
4. And the last reason I call the "Love Trap", where the person is determined to keep the love relationship going despite all adversities with which the couple is faced. The difficulty with this reason is that the other person is almost never working as hard as you are at attaining respect and mutual goals.

Desperate, please try and fit yourself into one (or more) of these categories in order to realize what is happening to you on an emotional level. With this knowledge, you will more easily be able to move out of this relationship in the most positive way possible.

Loretta

Validation Necessary for Gay Couples

by Wray Dansereau

For those of us who are involved in a gay relationship we have probably at one time or another felt "in the closet", secretive, or even stifled when around certain heterosexual groups. Despite the fact that we may have already "come out" on many levels in the gay community, we may still choose for one reason or another to not be obvious about our sexuality in certain other social circles such as family reunions, or work functions.

It is probably safe to say that almost all gay men and women have been faced with having to keep quiet about who their "friend" is or make jokes when asked why they don't have a boy/girlfriend. The truth is, as a gay woman I have grown used to carrying this secretive edge with me but in all honesty it can get very tiring. For this reason, I chose a long time ago to be open about my sexuality with my immediate family and close friends; I couldn't imagine living my life so deeply in the closet that I would have to hide from those I loved the most. It is difficult enough trying to be quiet about it to relatives and while at work when people probe about your personal life.

Being out of the closet, however, to your family members and close friends does not necessary fill all the needs that a gay person or a gay couple may have. Although there might be a comfortable level of acceptance by family members, there may not be a sincere warmth and sense of validation of the couples' life together. This is unfortunate to say but there is truth to this. Recently, my girlfriend and I went to visit my family in another province. They have met my partner many times and they all get along just fine. But, there was something missing - the open communication about our relationship, the validation given to heterosexual couples, and the support for the growth of our relationship in general.

Perhaps what made it glaringly clear was the fact that my brother has, in the past few months, become

engaged. Although my parents have come right out and said they love their future daughter-in-law, they are just not sure if the relationship with my brother and her will work in the end. They have been very willing to put those concerns behind them, however, and be supportive of their relationship and of their marriage in the summer. In fact, they are the center of attention as they kiss and coo at one another at the dinner table, in the living room and at the door saying goodnight. Don't get me wrong, I'm all for love and affection and intimacy but it is a little hard to choke down when your partner is sitting there and you don't get asked how you are doing as a couple, what experiences you're going through at the time, or just to say we are glad you've found somebody to spend your life with.

It is this level of validation that perhaps is overlooked for gay relationships because they are not understood as easily, not taken as seriously, or are not respected as much as heterosexual ones and this is a problem, in my opinion. When two individuals come together in a relationship, they are separate people who need acceptance and validation on many levels. As a couple, they are also in need of validation in regard to the dynamics unique to a love relationship. I believe, as validation for individuals is a necessary factor in the healthy sustenance of life, so too is acceptance and validation of relationships those individuals find themselves in.

The problem is gay couples may never receive the validation needed by some heterosexual people or family members. It is for this reason that gay communities are a necessary and healthy part of a gay lifestyle. It is extremely important for my partner and I to go out now and then to meet with other like-minded people in order to be open about our feelings, our affection, and to receive the emotional validation needed by all people who are in a relationship.

Gay – and glad of it

From Edmonton Journal, Monday, April 27, 1992

75,00 writers talk to Ann about their sexual orientation

Dear Readers:

I am devoting two consecutive days to the same topic because this issue has generated more mail than almost any other since I started writing the column nearly 37 years ago. I asked my homosexual readers to respond to the question, "Are you glad you are gay or would you rather be straight?" More than 75,000 readers wrote and told me how they feel about their sexual orientation. It was 30-to-1, "Yes, I'm glad I'm gay." Here are more excerpts from the most fascinating and revealing letters I've read in a long time:

From Louisville: Yes, Ann, I'm glad I'm gay. Thank you for asking. But being gay is a very small part of who I am. I'm a teacher and a football coach. I play classical music and a good game of tennis. I'm a gourmet cook. I can ski and I can sew. I am active in my church and a volunteer at our local shelter for the homeless. I don't believe in labels. Let's just say I am human.

Boston: I'm 32-years-old, the chairman of a multi-million dollar, high-tech company. And yes, I'm gay. Several weeks ago, I attended a meeting of a group called "The Greater Boston Business Council." I walked into the ballroom of a Hilton hotel and couldn't believe my eyes - more than 200 professional gay men and women. If I hadn't known where I was I would have sworn it was a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce. We are your doctors, lawyers, shopkeepers, bus drivers, waiters and florists. But best of all, we look, walk and talk like everyone else. There are many more of us IN the closet than out,

ANN LANDERS Advice

but it's becoming much easier to be open, thank the good Lord who made us all.

Sante Fe: Usually, you are pretty sensible, Ann, but asking your gay readers to tell you if they wish they were straight was over the top. Would you for a minute ask your readers if they are glad they're straight? People know only how it is to be what they are. For me, being gay is as natural as being straight is for you. Would you want to change? Well, neither would I.

Royal Oaks, Mich.: Yes, I'm gay, now 73 years old, and it's been a difficult life. I knew that being gay was beyond my control from the beginning. I prayed about it and finally accepted it. I figured if God made me this way he must have had a reason. I never felt comfortable with a woman. It was impossible to think of a woman in a sexual way. I tried a few times when I was in the army during the Second World War and just couldn't. So when they now say it's in our genes, I know it's the truth. I'm glad I'm not married because I wouldn't want to bring a son into the world who might have to struggle as I have.

Denver: I've known since I was four that I was "different". After a few years of therapy for depression and anxiety attacks, I accepted the fact that I'm a lesbian. If I could take a pill that would make me straight, I wouldn't do it. I love the sensitivity and honesty that women have and men lack. Actually, the worst part of being gay is the prejudice and hatred we encounter from supposedly "Christian" people.



Myers-Briggs Type Indicator Excellent For Self-Discovery

by Wray Dansereau

I am sure many of you have heard of or run across the quite well-known personality type indicator called "Myers-Briggs" (MBTI). It is a theory (based on Jung's psychological types) created initially by a woman named Katharine Briggs and then later carried on by her daughter, Isabel Myers.

The theory of the type indicator has been systematically created so that any person can answer a psychometric questionnaire made up of 94 questions. The questions are designed to determine the dominant and non-dominant personality traits each person has. The results of the questions, however, reveal far more complex ideas regarding the role of personality influencing human behavior.

Isabel Briggs, who continued the study of type indicating from her mother's initial writing, decided at the time of WWII that she would try to help people understand one another more clearly and thus, avoid destructive conflicts. The results of her work was the development of an "item pool" that would tap the attitudes, feelings, perceptions, and behaviors of the different psychological types. (Isabel Myers, *Gifts Differing* p.x). In other words, she created an extensive description and understanding of each different type of person as she had come to see them. Essentially, she believed that uniqueness or human variation was not so much because of chance as it was the result of differences in the basic aspects of mental functioning.

The eight primary areas of preferences found in human personalities (which can be combined in sixteen ways to create sixteen different types of personality are the following: (from Introduction to Type, Consulting Psychologists Press, Inc.)

Focus of Attention -

1. Extraversion: Attention on the outer world of people and the external environment. You are energized by what goes on in the outer world and this is where you tend to direct your own energy.

2. Introversion: Attention is focused more on their own inner world. You are energized by what goes on in your inner world and you tend to direct your energy there.

Acquiring Information

3. Sensing: Person who uses their eyes, ears, and other senses tell you what is actually there and actually happening, both inside and outside yourself.

4. Intuition: The other way to find out is through intuition which shows you the meaning, relationships and possibilities that go beyond the information from your senses.

How Do You Make Decision?

5. Thinking: One way to decide is through your thinking which predicts the logical consequences of any particular choice or action. This means deciding objectively.

6. Feeling: The other way to decide is through feeling which considers what is important to you or to other people and decides on the basis of person-centered values.

How Do You Orient Toward The Outer World?

7. Judgement: Those who take a judging attitude tend to live in a planned, orderly way, wanting to regulate life and control it.

8. Perception: Those who prefer to live in a flexible, spontaneous way.

Although each individual embodies all of these aspects of personality to some degree, we have dominant or stronger areas. For example, a person may be a INTJ which means she/he is an Introverted, thinking person who acquires information through intuition and lives her/his life in an organized manner (judgement). These are only the basic descriptions of the personality traits, however. The Myers-Briggs system is very involved including the dynamics between different personalities, career choices, and learning behaviors. If you are interested in the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, many books are available in book stores and libraries.

The Absence Of Her Body

Cool air from the window
lies still against my lips.

Outside, the October rain is silent
almost frozen as it hints toward winter.
I breathe onto the glass' surface
creating clouds to dull the pain in my mind.
The absence of her body makes me feel weary
like an old woman shuffling
through an empty house
once filled with laughter.

But, the blur clears into something familiar:
images of Laura's face appear
smiling at me from the other side.

I cringe, needing to reject the sight of her;
it only reminds my that she is surviving
better than I am
making me feel full of self-pity
rather than sorrow.

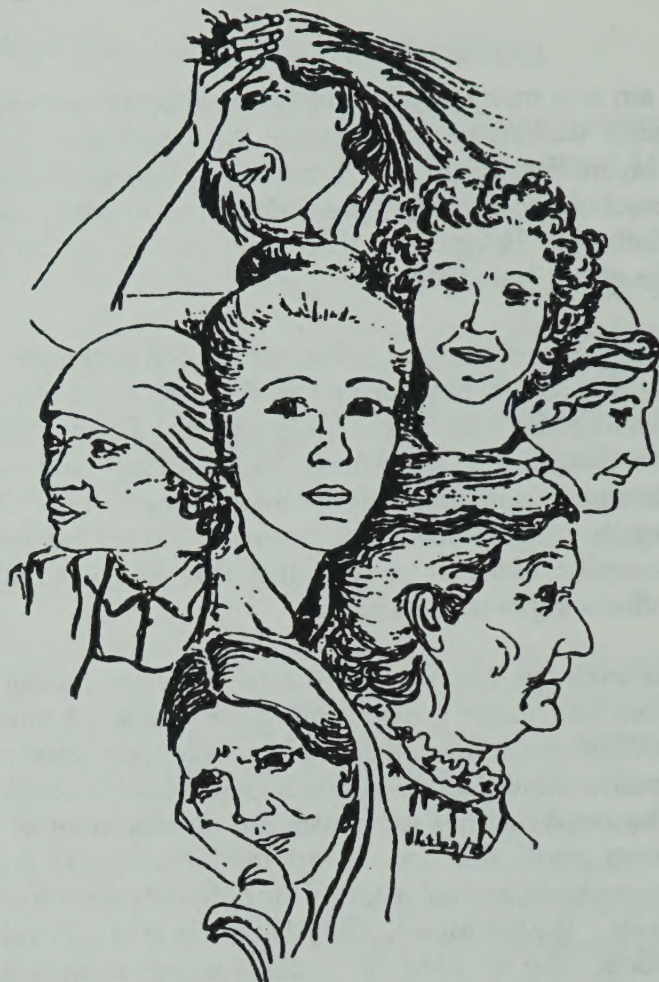
Turning away,
I breathe in the faint scent
of incense burning in the corner
of our living room.

I become absorbed in memories:
the sound of her colourful stories
ringing off the walls
and the soft hum of the oscillating
fan in our bedroom.

It does not comfort me yet
to know she is watching
from a window
unclouded
by the heat of her body.

Wray Dansereau

Poetry



Droplets

I am loath to
Rest with silence
It gathers in my ears;
Telling things that should be done
And spouting out best hidden doubts.
Rain is a busy, peaceful noise
Tracking brittle cross the roof
Stepping soft from leaf to leaf
Working drops down window panes.
Doing tiny endless things;
Precluding all but peace of mind.

Beverly

Books



Books

Religion/Esoteric

Mystical Meditation on the Collects

Dion Fortune

This book was first issued in 1930 and reissued in 1991. Personally, I found this book wonderfully inspiring and uplifting. Having left the Catholic church some time ago, I was rather wary about reading anything that had Christian overtones but Dion Fortune takes the esoteric meaning of the collects and brings forth a clear understanding of the mystical aspects of them that warms the heart. I bought mine at Akashik Books for \$11.50. Ascendent probably carries it, too.

Recovery/Self Help

The Inner Child Workbook

Cathryn L. Taylor

What to do with your past when it just won't go away. For those of us who are trying to cope with and heal the inner child, as a lot of us are, this book is one of the best I've seen so far. She is very gentle and non-preachy in her approach to healing and therapy. I found her techniques simple, straight forward and not at all as scary as some of the others I've read. What I really liked about her book is that she addresses the need for the healing of the emotionally neglected and abandoned child as well, which is an area that I have found suffers greatly from its own disease. Get this one anywhere.

Astrology

Healing Pluto Problems

Donna Cunningham

This book I think should be put into the Self Help section of the store. It's a book about Pluto in your chart and what it means to you. It's very easy to read (you don't have to be an astrologer to understand it) and it explains a lot about life. The back cover starts off: "Don't read this book if you don't want to change." I got this one at Ascendent Books.

Women Studies

The Beauty Myth

Naomi Wolf

Well, if you saw her on Oprah a couple months ago or were at the ASWAC conference on the May 1st weekend you already know that this is an incredible book. I felt like I had been asleep since the dark ages after reading just the first couple chapters. This book is not for the faint hearted, unless you're in therapy anyway. Naomi Wolf has the ability to shatter all your justifications or excuses for just about everything that has to do with your ideas or images of what beauty is and why you think that way. Period. If you're alive and female, read it. Also available anywhere.

k. d. Lang's "Ingenué"

An Interesting Departure from Country

by Wary D.

I will miss k. d. Lang's toe stomping tunes but at the same time her new album entitled "Ingenué", is a breath of fresh air from her previous albums. If nothing else, it is a polite au revoir to the less than enthusiastic country music establishment which never knew how to completely embrace k.d.'s music. Her new collection written with Ben Mink, enters a new category of song more akin to cabaret jazz and folk. And it suits her well. Her voice seems to croon and melt into the songs unlike some of her country selections where her crystal clear voice sat sometimes unattached to the twang of country.



Perhaps more interesting is that Ingenué allows the public to catch a closer glimpse into k.d.'s thoughts and desires. She was quoted in the Edmonton Journal as saying the album is "all written about one person, one love affair ... the ups and downs of it." Thus, her fifth album is not only a departure musically for k.d. but it seems to be a mode by which she is expressing her more personal feelings. In any event, Ingenué is definitely a transformational album for Lang and with any luck it will put her into a category where the listeners and reviewers are more accepting of her always changing and forever controversial style.

Last Womonspace Meeting - May 20, 1992

Please note that the Womonspace Organization is on the verge of folding completely. We have had problems with a lack of volunteers for months now and it is becoming impossible to keep Womonspace continuing in this rain. We are having one final meeting to discuss this decision. If you would like to give us some of your input or if you are willing to be a committed volunteer, please attend the meeting on Wednesday, May 20, 1992.

Thank You

Symbols . . . Of Lesbian Culture

by Sheryl McInnes

A ring on the little finger, particularly on the left hand is a symbol of "gayness"; an announcement of solidarity with other lesbians. In many communities, the ring on the left hand also signifies that the woman is in a committed relationship.

Judy Grahn locates the significance of the little finger in North American Indian tradition and ancient Greek myth. In the former, a purple spot on the little finger protected the powers of the Shaman while in Greek Myth, each finger has attributes. The little finger was attributed to Hermes (whose symbol is the women's symbol with two horns on top), the god of science, eloquence, luck and trickery but



also a guardian of boundaries, spirituality and powers of transformation. Wearing a ring on this finger brings the attributes of Hermes (Roman, Mercury; old European, Wodin) to the surface.

While we're on the subject of rings, two gemstones are also connected to "gayness"; the opal and the purple amethyst. Many years ago I was given my grandmother's engagement

ring - two small diamonds and an opal. My mother convinced me the opal was "bad luck" and I reset the ring with my birthstone. I wonder if she knew something before I did - or perhaps feared a self-fulfilling prophecy?



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Thank You

COMING EVENTS



PRIDE WEEK – Edm. June 20 - 28, 1992

Riverdale - Friday, June 26.
Summer Women's Solstice Dance.

Pride-A-Thon

Saturday, June 27, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Edmonton's River Valley.

Run, walk or cycle to support the "Work For Equality". Information call Dave at 454-6914.

Pink, Pride, Power Rally & March

Saturday, June 27, 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(Edmonton's first) Rally & Parade Gazebo
(83 Avenue & 104 Street). Sponsored by The
Gay & Lesbian Awareness Society (GALA).

- Wear lots of pink – bring banners
 - Strut your stuff down Whyte Avenue.
- Information call Maureen at 454-8031.

Garneau Theatre

Saturday, June 27 in the evening.
"Bronsky & Phillips" – Tickets \$15.00
Gay Community Team from San Fransico.
Information call Maureen at 454-8031.

GLCCE now has three lesbians working on
the board of directors. We need your input to
make this a Woman Positive Space – Ideas?
Information call Sheryl at 454-8031.

Gay & Lesbian Community Events

Step-A-Thon Challenge

Support GLCCE – Fun & Prizes
May 24 – Information & pledge forms from
GLCCE or call Hogn at 488-7691.

Garage Sale

June 20 & 21, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at
GLCCE, 9917 - 112 Street.
information call Rickard at 474-1094

Outrights/Les Droits Visibles

The second Pan-Canadian Conference on
Lesbian and Gay Rights, will be held in
Vancouver on the weekend of October 9 -
11, 1992. The conference will be a place to
exchange information and develop strategies
– political, educational, legal and social – to
take us into the future. If you can help
with publicity in your area, we'd like to hear
from you. For more information, contact
Barbara Findlay at (604) 251-4356 or write
to us at ...

321 - 1525 Robson Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6G 1C3

Newsletter Committee

In the event that Womonspace does fold, the newsletter committee would like to express how much we have enjoyed producing the newsletter. We have a few very committed workers who now plan to channel their energies into a newsletter produced at GLCCE. GLCCE (which stands for Gay & Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton) is very open to involving more women in their meetings, events and newsletter production. Therefore, we will be able to receive any submissions at the GLCCE address, 9917 - 112 Street, Edmonton, Alberta.

Thoughts by Hugh Prather

(from Notes To Each Other)

The usual means of selecting one's mate is no less dominated by appearances. Those seen as ordinary are not considered. But if the calves are a centimeter wider, if the clothes come from the right store, if the career gives the right impression, if the accent is from the right part of the country, then the individual is attractive and desirable and worthy of all-consuming,

single-minded pursuit. No one would be so dumb as to pick a friend because he or she had good legs, and yet considerations such as that influence the choice of one's life partner. What comfort is a complexion when you must come home and tell of a business failure? What tenderness and fun can the right height give your newborn child? And in illness, what compassion can come from net worth? Looks good or is good: that is the needed shift in perception.





HOROSCOPE

by Renée Fulsom

For those of you who love to read your horoscope but hate it when it says something like "a member of the opposite sex will find you irresistible", Womonspace offers these very original astrological forecasts written just for gay women.

Although it is the woman who ultimately controls her own destiny, the woman is but a conduit of energy whose inner harmony is governed by the interactive ebb and flow of other life energies around her. Each of these energies is in turn acted upon by other forces, some of which are recognizable through the science of astrology. The purpose of this column is to create an awareness, within the reader, of the astrological forces which affect her destiny.



TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20)

Determined stable and sincere describes the Taurus well. They usually don't mince their words or take unnecessary risks where their home or finances are concerned. Taurus' are affectionate, love the earth and all that holds beauty. Venus rules of course. Normally they are in full control of their emotions. But beware the Bull that sees red. It's usually for a good reason.



Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

Loves the intellectual aspects of life. Is curious in all things and has a restless nature. Usually they are popular and make friends easily. Gemini's don't like to feel tied down to anything or anyone until much later in life, when they become more aware of the value of co-operation in relationships. Travel, the arts and reading are all good for the Gemini's well being.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20)

Expect the unexpected this month especially if your birthday falls between the 7th - 17th. Things may come to light that you have been intentionally or unintentionally trying to hide. Don't think that this is necessarily a bad thing. It happened because it had to.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20)

If you've been giving any thought to the environment lately, now is the time you'll be feeling like really doing something. Your energies are going to be directed more towards discipline and organization. Communication in this area will also be high.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22)

Energy levels will be quite high for the next month and you may be tempted into conflicts over ego issues, don't! You'll lose. Don't compromise your integrity either, though. If you use this energy positively now it will pay off later, in about 6 months.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)

Now is the time to make that decision you've been humming and hawing about. Your energy and enthusiasm will be high now. Bosses and person in authority will notice. Personal relationships will also bode well.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

The need to enjoy yourself will be high for a while, which is good as long as you resist the impulse towards excessiveness. Also avoid a self-righteous attitude about your needs, others are going to need proof of validity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)

Be very careful to maintain co-operative relations with others very close to you right now. Difficulties could arise that will lead to long term consequences. Keep a level head and it will work out in the end.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Interests in just about anything that is new will be in the forefront right now. This has it's goods and bads of course, as any thinking Scorpion will tell you. So be aware, the fruits of your actions will ripen by next month. See Libra message.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

Relationships could be a little tense, but at this time what leaves or ends was meant to be. Good ones will stay good. Conflicts will have aired, as they needed to. Watch feelings of resentment.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

This will be a balanced and easy time for you. It is also a good time for reflection on what you have been doing these last 4 months or so. Are things going as planned or should you re-evaluate?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 19)

You might start feeling you're going through a bit of a mid-life crisis lately and it hasn't been at all fun. Hang in, it does pass but it is also letting you know what you need to be focusing more attention on.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20)

This month will be a very pleasant one for you. As you will feel appreciated and cared about. Be sure to return the affections if you wish it to continue into the next month.

ARIES (Mar. 21 - Apr. 19)

Your energies will be high and will want to start something new for excitement. Be careful not to get involved in anything that could be considered deceitful in any way. No matter how discouraged you feel, don't give in to it.

How innocuously our eyes met that first time.
(Flashpoint)
It was like looking into my own soul.
(One thousand questions)
I dared not think you had really seen me.
(Hope of such intensity is painful)
You were already involved.
(Suppression was survival)
Oh God, how I needed to talk to you.

Then, you were there again.
(I thought I had put you out of my mind)
So different than the rest.
(I couldn't ignore the possibility any longer)
You knew me better than I knew myself.
(One thousand answers)
We began to talk.
(Though nothing needed to be said)
Could the fates allow it?

You sought me out.
(Subconsciously we knew)
Time gave us perspective.
(A knowledge of the future)
You gently teased.
(Setting things into motion)
I had to find out.
(Fate and time fused into one)
Fusion.



Please Note: Dances

Although Womonspace, as an organization may be folding, the regular monthly dances on the 3rd Saturday of every month will be continuing.

There are confirmed sponsors up until the July dance. After that, there will most likely be sports organizations that will continue to put on the dances.

FINAL NOTE

If anyone is interested in having their **Natal Chart** done, I now have the computer program to do so. I can also do **Progressed** and **Transits**. For the most accurate chart of the time of your birth is needed, but if you can't get it, we can work around that. Fee is \$5.00. Please call Renee at 424-0210

Womonspace is up in the air right now with regards to the continuation of this newsletter (as I am writing this) if it is decided that it will not be published any more, I just want to say that I hope you have enjoyed and have had as much fun with the Astrology section as I have. Thank You.

Renee Fulsom

The Last Word Is Yours

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sisters,

We were compelled to write to inform you of our perceptions of the "Mysterious Mammaries" contest in the Jan. - Feb. 1992 issue of your newsletter.

Picture this: the same contest running in an engineering department's newsletter at the university. Most women would be outraged, especially if they held a feminist perspective. The contest itself is offensive because it is based on the accompanying photograph, which shows a woman only from the shoulders to the waist. Pornography is notorious for fragmenting women's bodies, which prevents viewers from looking at the person as a whole entity. It is dehumanizing and sexist. Erotica, on the other hand, depicts people with dignity and respect, as whole human beings.

Women's breasts are used in countless ways by the mainstream media to sell products without any respect for the woman herself. She, too, is a commodity. This reflects on all women in society because the women used in the ads symbolize all women. The image of women perceived by others (especially males) becomes warped; women become sex objects and this contributes to our sexist culture. While we agree that women's bodies are beautiful and should not be cloaked because of how society may perceive female sexuality, your contest photo contradicts the feminist idea that women's sexuality should be viewed as part of the whole person. A reply on our comments would be welcome.

On behalf of the Edmonton Working Women Collective,

Monica Walker

Dear Monica Walker;

The writers and editors at Womonspace extend their apologies for those they may have offended with the Mystery Mammaries contest.

Editor of Womonspace



Womonspace Activities

All Womonspace activities are open to members and non-members. Activities are free unless otherwise noted. Everyone is welcome. The Womyn's Building is located in the basement of 9930 - 106 Street.

Monthly General Meeting

May 20, 7:30 p.m., Womyn's Building (Basement, 9930 - 106 Street).

Lesbian Drop-In

May 14, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Womyn's Building (Basement, 9930 - 106 Street).

Womonspace Dances

May 17, 8:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m., Bonnie Doon Hall (9420 - 93 Street). The one following will be June 21, 1992.

Admission: Members \$5.00
Non-members \$8.00

Door Prizes: Gourmet basket from Aunt Willma, and a bottle of liquor from the Roost.

Volunteers & Dance Co-ordinators Needed.



ALL WEEK PARTY — DOORS AT 4 PM
No Cover Charge to 8 pm — FREE Pool Tables

10345 - 104 ST., EDMONTON, ALBERTA
(403) 426-3150

Aunt Willma's

More than Art Food: You Party — We Cater

*Custom Floral Designs
Caterer for Womonspace Dances*

We Cater Events

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WOMONSPACE NEWS

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Dear Womonspace member,

This letter is to advise that proceedings have been initiated to dissolve Womonspace. Because of a chronic shortage of committed, trustworthy, and competent volunteers it seems that the lesbian population of Edmonton is no longer able to support an organization of this type.

All interested members are therefore advised that a special general meeting will be held on Wednesday May 20th 1992 at 7:30 p.m. in the common room of the Edmonton Womyn's Building (9930 - 106 street). The agenda will consist of a motion to dissolve Womonspace, a discussion on the transfer of responsibility of certain activities and services to other groups and agencies, and a recommendation on the donation, sale and/or disbursement of our funds and belongings.

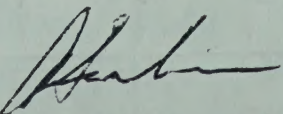
Womonspace Social and Recreational Society of Edmonton has had a long and eventful history. The many activities and services we have set up for our community of womyn have all been worthwhile. No doubt everyone of the thousands of womyn who have benefited from Womonspace's presence will hold at least one fond memory dear to their heart. For these reasons, it seems appropriate to close off Womonspace in the most dignified way possible.

Anyone wishing to step forward to revive Womonspace should be aware that it would take a well-functioning group of womyn, committed to devoting at least three years, to effectively manage this organization.

This letter is being sent to all known Womonspace members, whether they be outreach, active or voting members. Any other interested womyn from the community may be invited to attend this special general meeting. All will be allowed to speak freely and every effort will be made to attain consensus on the major decisions. It should be noted however that, according to our bylaws, voting on motions is restricted to active members who have donated a minimum of 8 hours of volunteer service and who have attended at least one general meeting in the past year.

Hoping to see you at the special general meeting, we remain,

Yours truly,



Womonspace Social and Recreational Society of Edmonton

